

Claims

1. A method for processing contents within envelopes having first, second, third and fourth edges, comprising
5 the steps of:

conveying the envelopes along a document path;
cutting a first edge of one of the envelopes;
cutting a second edge of the one envelope;
cutting a third edge of the one envelope
10 setting the depth of cut of the third edge so that
the third edge depth of cut is greater than the
depth of cut of either the first edge or the
second edge.

15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of setting
comprises the step of setting the third edge depth
of cut so that the third edge depth of cut is at
least twice as great as the depth of cut of either
the first edge or the second edge.

20 3. The method of claim 1 comprising the step of
extracting the contents from the one envelope.

4. An apparatus for processing a leading envelope
25 having contents comprising one or more documents and a
trailing envelope having contents comprising one or more
documents, comprising:

a system transport for conveying the envelopes and
their contents along a document path;
30 a feeder for feeding envelopes into the system
transport;
a thickness detector for detecting the thickness of
the leading envelope;
a system controller for controlling the feeder to

maintain proper spacing along the document path
between the envelopes and their contents;
wherein the system controller controls the feeder
for feeding the trailing envelope in response
to the detected thickness of the leading
envelope.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 comprising an extractor for
extracting the contents from the envelopes.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 comprising a singulator for
separating the contents and serially conveying the
documents along the document path.

7. A method for processing a leading envelope having
contents comprising one or more documents and a trailing
envelope having contents comprising one or more
documents, comprising the steps of:

feeding the leading document along a document path
from an input bin;
measuring the thickness of the leading document;
determining the gap necessary between the leading
envelope and the trailing envelope in response
to the measured thickness wherein the gap is
sufficient to avoid interference between the
envelopes and their contents as they are
conveyed along the document path;
controlling the feeding of the trailing document
along the document path to provide the
determined gap.